heart or mind to fulfil that one conſcientiouſly. It then loſes the venerable aſpect of a duty, and aſſumes the fantaſtic form of a whim.

As the care of children in their infancy is one of the grand duties annexed to the female character by nature, this duty would afford many forcible arguments for ſtrengthening the female underſtanding, if it were properly conſidered.

The formation of the mind muſt be begun very early, and the temper, in particular, requires the moſt judicious attention—an attention which women cannot pay who only love their children becauſe they are their children, and ſeek no further for the foundation of their duty, than in the feelings of the moment. It is this want of reaſon in their affections which makes women ſo often run into extremes, and either be the moſt fond or moſt careleſs and unnatural mothers.

To be a good mother—a woman muſt have ſenſe, and that independence of mind which few women poſſeſs who are taught to depend entirely on their huſbands. Meek wives are, in general, fooliſh mothers; wanting their children to love them beſt, and take their part, in ſecret, againſt the father, who is held

held up as a ſcarecrow. If they are to be puniſhed, though they have offended the mother, the father muſt inflict the puniſhment; he muſt be the judge in all diſputes: but I ſhall more fully diſcuſs this ſubject when I treat of private education, I now only mean to inſiſt, that unleſs the underſtanding of woman be enlarged, and her character rendered more firm, by being allowed to govern her own conduct, ſhe will never have ſufficient ſenſe or command of temper to manage her children properly. Her parental affection, indeed, ſcarcely deſerves the name, when it does not lead her to ſuckle her children, becauſe the diſcharge of this duty is equally calculated to inſpire maternal and filial affection: and it is the indiſpenſable duty of men and women to fulfil the duties which give birth to affections that are the ſureſt preſervatives againſt vice. Natural affection, as it is termed, I believe to be a very faint tie, affections muſt grow out of the habitual exerciſe of a mutual ſympathy; and what ſympathy does a mother exerciſe who ſends her babe to a nurſe, and only takes it from a nurſe to ſend it to a ſchool?

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